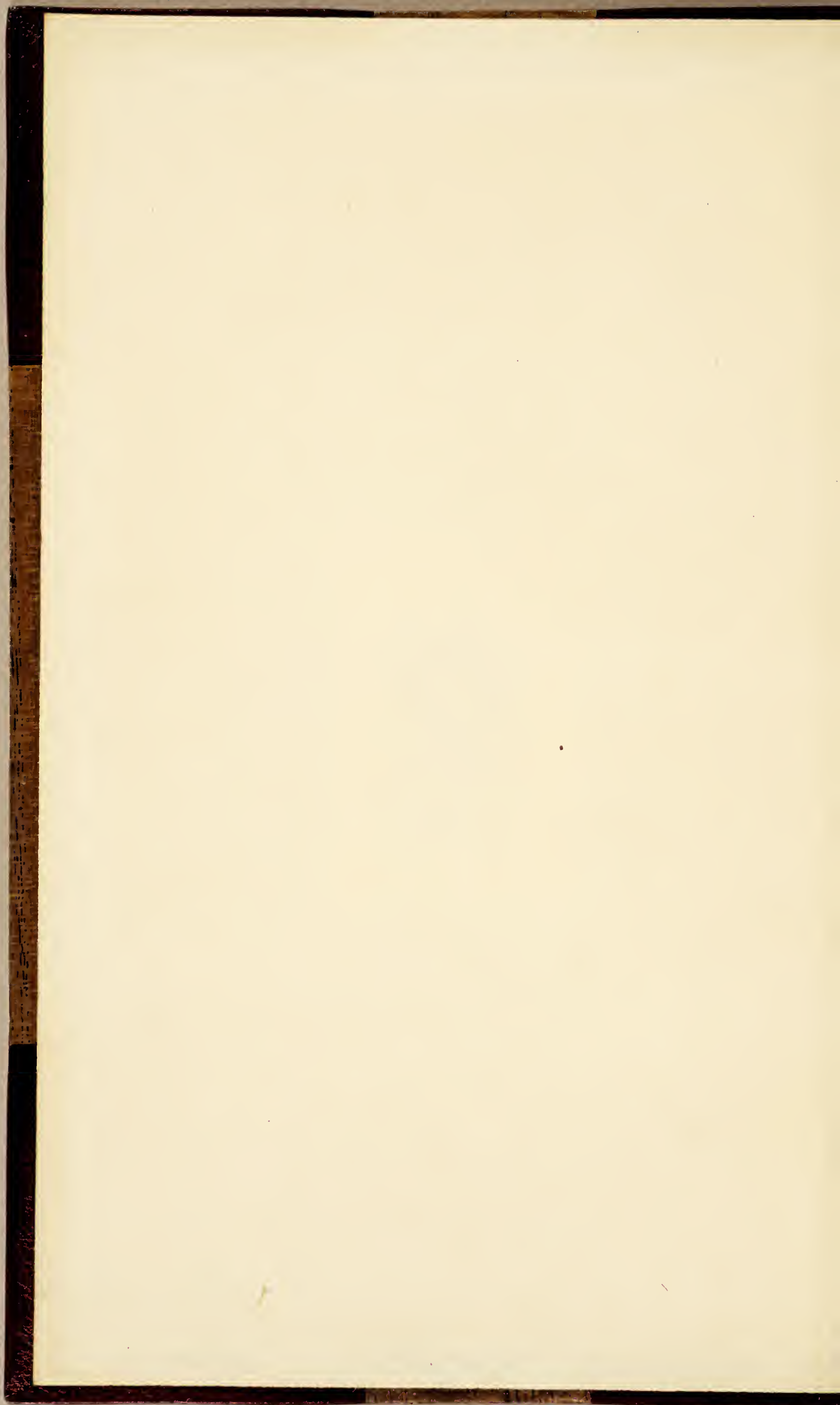




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A SHORT
H I S T O R Y
OF L A T E
ADMINISTRATIONS,

Shewing their
S P I R I T A N D C O N D U C T ;

From whence it is made evident,

That E N G L A N D is to be saved by the
Virtue of the People Only.

In a LETTER to the CONSTITUENTS by a
Friend to the CONSTITUTION.

L O N D O N :
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21542

at the same Time assert, with becoming Spirit, a bold Claim on Behalf of the Rights and Liberties of their Country; happily uniting the true Interest of King and People, which all wise Men know are inseparably connected.

These dispassionate Writers can view Errors in Government, and Vices in Ministers, without recommending dangerous Extrems to avoid them; without propagating Seeds of Disaffection, or cherishing Principles tending to Popery and arbitrary Power; as other of these Letter-Writers, fraught with Common-Place Ribaldry to intoxicate the Mob, not inform the Judgment, have done, under Pretence of Zeal for their Country; not scrupling to carp even at the Revolution: As if an Abuse of Liberty could justify a wilful Relapse into Slavery. How much wiser is it to amend public Errors, correct public Vices, and punish State-Criminals, as severely as their Crimes deserve; leaving Mercy to the supreme Judge in Heaven, when it cannot with Safety be dispensed upon Earth.

An unhappy Admiral has suffered. Not a Breast in your Nation but must internally, (whatsoever he may do outwardly) confess the Justice, as well as the Necessity of that fatal Sentence. Detrimental perhaps to *French* and *Jacobite* Interests; Aspects and Efforts indicate as much, a Confession of its Utility to *Britain*. The Misconduct of this unadvised

vifed Commander does not however acquit his Superiors; they could have fent out a Fleet, which muft have faved your Territories in Defpight of any Admiral, *French* or *English*: Why they did not, feems incumbent upon your Representatives to enquire. *Byng* was culpable in *not executing*; but the more criminal Offenders lay covered in fome Department of the Adminiftration.

Whoever cafts his Eye upon our parliamentary Tranfactions, muft fee that the *Engliſhman* has at all Times, particularly ſince the Acceſſion of the Houſe of *Hanover*, been affiduous to recover the Uſe of frequent Parliaments; to limit Penſions, and exclude the Swarms of Place-Men from intruding into the Houſe of Commons; thereby to ſecure his Representative from undue Influence of Adminiſtrations. For this important End, we ſee a Penſion-Bill paſſed the Houſe of Commons in 1730, but rejected by the Lords; paſſed again in 1731, again in 1733, and again in 1739, by the Representatives of the People, but ſtill rejected by the Houſe, which does not represent them.

In 1729, 30, 31, and 32, a Place-Bill was paſſed by the Houſe of Commons, and as often rejected by the Lords.

In 1734 a Motion was again made in the Houſe of Commons to limit the Number of Place-Men, and repeal the ſeptennial Act; but the Miniſter had acquired Force enough

to baffle these Attempts. However his Influence did not discourage the Friends of the Constitution; determined to struggle for those momentous Laws, they moved again for the Place-Bill in 1735 and 1736; again in 1739, by Order of their Constituents; but found that the longer Place-Men continued in Parliament, the more difficult it was to exclude them. Their happy Alliance with the Minister was now so rivetted, that Country Gentlemen could not even obtain Leave to bring in Heads of the Bill.

The Suppression of it in its very Embryo, by the Men bound to promote it, being a Demonstration that it was the more necessary, gave the People a general Alarm; Counties, Cities and Boroughs, from all Parts of the Kingdom, sent Instructions to their Representatives, earnestly recommending a Place-Bill, and Repeal of the septennial Act. The *Londoners* peremptorily directing their Representatives to insist upon a Place-Bill, before they should consent to any Money-Bill whatsoever.

The Minister, startled at the national Ferment (and above all Things dreading an Opposition to the Money-Bill, that Source and Support of his own inordinate Power) did not think it advisable directly to oppose the Torrent, nor even to expose indirectly his Troops to popular Odium; especially foreseeing the Approach of a new Parliament, when recent Injuries, making deeper Impression, must
still

still further embarrass him in carrying Elections, and procuring false Returns; he therefore warily changed his Measures, gave out a new Lesson, and silenced his Followers so effectually, that when the Place-Bill, which in the former Session had been murdered in the Womb, was at this critical Period brought into the House, not a Man opposed it; the sagacious Leader judging it necessary that his Hirelings should lay in some Materials for Reputation among Voters, he therefore suffered it to pass the Commons, *nemine contradicente*, well knowing, that his End for that Turn might be better answered in the House of Lords, *where the Bill was accordingly rejected.*

Our political Affairs standing thus in 1741 (when the new Parliament was called) excited the Indignation of the Public, and caused Elections to terminate in Favour of the Country Interest; the City of *London* leading the *Van*. Having by a great Majority chosen Members in Opposition to the Court, they delivered them a Paper of Instructions.—“ *To oppose*
“ *standing Armies in Times of Peace; restore*
“ *triennial Parliaments; promote a Place-*
“ *Bill; and redress Grievances, previous to*
“ *granting Supplies.*”

In *Westminster*, which for many Years had gone with the Court, the Spirit of Independency so strongly prevailed, that it was apparent the ministerial Interest must give Way.

Way. The Conductors, early foreseeing that they could not gain their Election by Votes, resolved to gain it by Arms: For this Purpose, under Pretence of some Riot, a Party of Soldiers were called, took Possession of the Place of Election, and the Books were shut, whilst the Voters were coming in, and many thousands to poll.

General *Folliot* had ordered the Soldiers to march, upon a Letter sent him by some *Westminster* Justices of the Peace, whose only Punishment for this daring Infringment upon the Liberty of the Subject, was “ *a reprimand from the Speaker at the Bar of the House upon their Knees.*”

The Returning Officer, for his infamous Violation of Trust and false Return, was indeed voted “ into Custody, but in seven “ or eight Days discharged, upon paying his “ Fees, which he was *well enabled to do,* “ *having received 1500l. from the Treasury,* “ *during his Confinement.*” About 200l. per Day for imbruing his Hands in the intended Massacre of our Constitution.

The *Romans* put Numbers to Death for slighter Crimes against the State. No Wonder that false Returns are so frequently made, since few are questioned for this Treason against their King and Country, fewer convicted, scarce any punished; none adequate to the enormous Size of this most dangerous Crime.

Crime. What must the Public suffer in the Event?

Although the Criminal was in Fact rewarded, yet the Minister perceiving that the Strength of the Nation duly exerted must baffle all his Intrigues, perhaps bring his Head to the Block, began to dread the Event, and consult human Means for his Preservation. He knew how he had wrought upon Men: It was even his Custom to boast of it; and he despaired not of tempting them again.

Finding that Intrigue, Venality and Corruption of returning Officers, could not procure him a Majority at the Opening of the Session; and thence concluding that disputed Elections at the Bar of the House, were now likely to be determined according to the Merits; he thought it Time to gain over some adverse Leaders; and for these he bid high, even hundreds of thousands, *Public Money*, for one Person of exalted Birth, who wisely and disdainfully rejected him. The Tempter finding that no Price would take, without his Abdication, he therefore judged his former Asylum, the House of Commons, to be a Place no longer tenable. Perceiving the Resentment of the Public to encrease, sensible that he could not easily extricate himself whilst a Parliament, daily sitting, had their Eyes upon his Motions; and conscious that one casting Voice in either House might suddenly

denly commit him to the Tower, he planned an Adjournment of both Houses for a Fort-night; in which Space of Time, this Man, generally considered as the Bar between His Majesty and the Affections of his People, as the Author of our Grievances at Home, of our constant venal Majority in both Houses, and our ill Success and contemptible Figure abroad, was created a Peer, and suffered not only to resign all his Employments with Honour, but permitted also to introduce into the principal Offices of State his chief Opponents, who carried his Head in their Pockets. His Plea was clear! His Defence irresistible! And his Reward munificent! Having a Pension shortly granted him "of 4000*l.* a Year, for "*his long and faithful Services.*"

Britain *has felt the Effects of this Example* *. To

* Measures nearly resembling these, were lately pursued by succeeding Rulers in a neighbouring Country; Sitzings of Parliament suddenly discontinued, and during the Recess, Country Leaders warped by Places, Pensions, Titles and Profits.

The Scheme concerted by our great Men, to enslave that People, and their Method of Defence is worth your Observation. Their first irregular Ruler, backed by the whole Weight of our Administration openly espousing him, attempted to lay his Hands upon their public Money, and command their Parliament: To which End he cashiered such Place-Men as were Members, and refused to betray their parliamentary Trust in Obedience to him. This Act of Tyranny alarming the People, they held frequent Country Meetings, to consult Means of Self-Preservation. In Consequence of these Meetings, they attained a clearer Knowledge of their

To enquire strictly into the late Ministerial Measures ; to enact proper Laws for securing the Constitution against Corruption ; and to obtain an upright Administration ; was the declared Purpose of the then Opposition. Ends, which undoubtedly might have been attained, if the Country Party had stuck together. But new Employments striking new Light upon their Minds, there was no further Need of Reformation. “ A new Court Party
 “ soon appeared, consisting of all the former
 “ to a Man ; with the Addition of the new
 “ Ministers and their Friends ; which restor-
 “ ed again the Majority on the Court Side of
 “ the Question. Where it is likely to remain,
 C “ (says

their Rights, and with it, a proper Spirit and Resolution to maintain them.

Hence infer the Importance of publick spirited Meetings. If an Handful of *Irishmen* could overcome the united Force of *English* and *Irish* Ministers ; what Combination could withstand such Meetings, composed of the Sons of Liberty in *Britain* ?

When the Bashaw found that they had *English* Blood in their Veins, and were not to be Bugbear'd at the Name of a *British* Privy Council ; then, to prevent Parliamentary Representations, it was judged necessary to shut up their House of Commons, and yield the Reins of Government to his Employers, not being able to do their Work.

Change of Hands being therefore necessary, a Person was sent of a contrary Turn and Character ; smooth enough to deceive the People, and artful enough to corrupt their Leaders.——Talents not necessary, if Redress had been intended——Talents which inflamed the Wound——The longer Quacks intervene, the more obstinate the Distemper.

“ (says an Historian) *until national Distress*
 “ *restore national Virtue.*”

As the gaining over a few Chiefs, could not be supposed to silence all, a Motion was with some Difficulty carried in the House of Commons, to enquire into the Conduct of a Minister presiding at the Treasury Board for the last ten Years: A secret Committee was appointed, but the Officers of the Treasury refused to answer, under Pretence, that they might possibly criminate themselves. A Bill was therefore passed in the House of Commons to indemnify them; but here again the Minister was protected, the Lords refused to pass it.

The Committee made two Reports abounding with flagrant Instances of Corruption; *particularly influencing Elections*: There was Profusion of secret Service Money; near a Million and a Half expended in that Article: Of which 40,777*l.* went to Authors and News Writers for the Minister.

Remarkable Discoveries were these from unwilling Witnesses; and against all Difficulties. Had the Scene been laid fairly open, what Astonishment must it have produced? Horrible was this Application of Publick Money! levied upon Goods necessary to support the Life of the Peasant! His Salt and his Beer loaded with Taxes to enable the Minister to corrupt his Country.

Whilst

Whilst the Committee were preparing a third Report, which they had near finished, even from defective Materials; they were *stopped by a Prorogation*. In Consequence of which, the new Rulers, in League with the old, gained so much Time and Means to negotiate; that when a Motion was made, in the following Session of Parliament, to renew the Enquiry upon these strong Presumptions of Guilt; the very Men who had been violent for it, changed Sides, and threw a Majority of sixty-seven into the Court Scale, against all Application for Justice.

No Wonder that a Minister of such extensive Influence in both Houses, could not in either of them be called to Account for his male Administration, which became its own Security.

These same Gentlemen newly come into Play, had before their Admission, in Pursuance of Instructions from their Constituents, (*probably solicited by themselves*) introduced a Place Bill, which Decency as well as Policy now enjoined them to support. For the People, alarmed at their Leaders suddenly stepping into Employments, concluded, that they now required stronger Security than ever for the Liberties of their Country. ——— They therefore, did not fail, upon this great Occasion, to renew their Instructions; and urge their Representatives to an actual Performance of their Duty. The Cities of *London* and

Westminster took the Lead, and were followed by most Cities and Counties in the Kingdom; strenuously insisting upon the Place-Bill, the Pension-Bill, and Repeal of the Septennial Act.

The new Ministers, who seem to have succeeded to the Employments and Connections of the old, upon secret Compacts made with them, never to redress the Subjects, concerted how to parry this Blow. Too politic to cast all Odium upon any one House, and well taught to manage both; they divided the Burthen: The House of Commons rejected the Motion for Leave to repeal the Septennial Act; and the House of Lords rejected the Place and Pension-Bills, which the other House were allowed to pass.

This Event still further opening the Eyes of the Publick, the new Ministers, who had so often avowed the Utility of the Place-Bill, judging it necessary to preserve Appearances, and to do *something* towards the Satisfaction of the People, brought in a Bill to exclude *only certain Officers from being Members of Parliament*, which being no great Bar to the Views of a Ruler, passed both Houses, *without Opposition*. But in the following Sessions, *December 1742*, when a real Place-Bill was offered to Parliament, upon a further Remonstrance from the Constituents, bitterly inveighing against their Disappointment in the late Change of Administration, the Gentlemen formerly so strenuous for it, when they were
out

out of Place, being now at the Helm ; assembled their Posse, and by a Majority of nine-five on the Ministry Side, refused Leave to bring in Heads of a Bill for this necessary Law which themselves had ever fought.

By treacherous Junction they had climbed to Power, and by anti-constitutional Means they resolved to keep it. Their Behaviour as to disputed Elections in the first Sessions of this Parliament, gave too much Room for this lamentable Conclusion.

At the opening of the Parliament, the Country Party had carried a Chairman for the Committee of Elections ; whence it was conjectured that controverted Elections would end in their Favour ; but when their Leaders were become Ministers, and many of their Brethren had obtained Places ; then a Motion was carried, “ *That the Committee of Elections should* ”
 “ *not proceed on any Petitions complaining of* ”
 “ *undue Returns. And a second Motion, that* ”
 “ *no Petition of this Kind should be heard this* ”
 “ *Session.* ” Every Man who had a Place, concurring in these Motions.

The Mask being quite laid aside ; Ministers skreened and enriched ; Enquiries suppressed, Justice arrested, Instructions despised, Parties betrayed, and the Nation sold ; what could ensue, but utter Breach of Union and Confidence ? Whereby all good Effect of the late publick spirited Opposition, were totally frustrated—Despair must follow: It did follow.

Complaints

Complaints were vain ; through ministerial Negotiations, a Civil List Revenue of monstrous Produce, was settled for Life : Ministers had multiplied Places, and contrived to procure Grants of Pensions profuse and numerous. Under the Notion of making good Engagements with *foreign* Princes and States; compleating Treaties ; and defraying necessary Expences for publick Measures ; and sometimes an indefinite Vote of Credit was given, without any Estimate, sometimes, Hundreds of Thousands granted at a Time, for secret Expeditions : No Wonder that Ministers were omnipotent !

Secret Service Money may undoubtedly at Times be necessary in all States ; but on the other Hand, when we see daring Encroachments upon the Rights of the Subject ; and the Freedom of Parliament so long in its Decline, as to be near lost ; 'tis then Time to call for an Account, even of secret Service Money ; upon fair Presumption that the Weapons for Defence of the State, have been turned against the Subject. Great Sums of Money entrusted without Account, must furnish designing Ministers with dangerous Means of assailing the Liberties of their Country ; and are therefore to be granted with Liberality or Reserve, according as publick Emergencies, especially the Security of domestick Rights, shall warrant.

To commit these mighty Trusts, at proper Times, to proper Persons, may be judicious.

But

But previously to secure the fundamental Rights of the Subject, by Place-Bills, Pension-Bills, and Repeal of Septennial Laws, when generally deemed detrimental to Society, is bare Matter of *Justice* and *Duty* from the Trustee to his Constituent. Common Sense will demand, and *common Honesty* will grant them.

Money for secret Service, like Mercury for secret Ailments, dispensed by skilful and honest Hands, is a sovereign Medicine; but committed to the Hands of a Knave or a Fool, is the rankest Poison. One of these Evils may deceive before he is known; if you trust him afterwards, 'tis your Fault, and your Fault also, if he is not soon known.

A short Review of some few Passages in our State Affairs, may be necessary to illustrate the Truths we have candidly offered: They will abundantly shew that every publick Act was turned to a Jobb; and almost every Expedition ended in the Dishonour of the Prince, and the enfeebling, dejecting, and impoverishing of the People.—To him who could and would aid the Minister, all Things were lawful.

Consider our publick Acts and Expeditions, and secret Expeditions, for twenty or thirty Years past.

A proper Retrospect will account for many modern Miscarriages. For some Years after the Accession of King George I. we were plagued with Rebellions, Treasons and Conspiracies.

spiracies. To these succeeded another Plague, which left more permanent Effects ; that detestable Plan of Knavery, the *South-Sea Scheme*, carried on by Combination of Ministers and others, to the Destruction of Trade, Honesty, Sense and Virtue. The very Brain of the Inhabitants seems to have been inverted. A general Depredation ensued, from whence may be dated the Commencement of your Evils : A Depredation, which perhaps was the Cause why no Man could be brought to adequate Punishment for his Share of the Iniquity.

This complicated Device, beggaring some, and glutting others, with ill-gotten Wealth, gave to *the Corrupt in Power* a certain Weight and Influence, which has been upon the Increase ever since ; and the great Redundancy of Revenues granted for the Civil List, contributed to the same End.

In what Manner the important Affairs of your Nation have been carried on, since the Minister became all in all, a little Observation may serve to determine.

¶ When the *Spaniards* besieged *Gibraltar* in the Year 1727, and our Fleet lay in the Bay to protect our Garrison, the Enemy's Ships were suffered to bring Provisions and Ammunition to their Army, besieging the Place, under the very Sterns of our Men of War.

In the Year 1733, our Fleet in the *West-Indies* under Admiral *Hofier* lay rotting in the sickly Season, until we rotted three Admirals, thirty

thirty Captains, one hundred Lieutenants, and above 4,000 Men : Besides our Loss of Shipping eaten by the Worms.

In 1740 we concerted two secret Expeditions, one under Sir *Chaloner Ogle* at great Expence, against *Cartagena* ; the other under Commodore *Anson* for the *South-Seas*.

Sir *Chaloner's* secret Expedition was as well known in *Spain* as in *England*, and by that Means defeated.

Mr. *Anson's* Expedition being as well known; the *Spaniards* took care to send a superior Fleet before him. These indeed perished by Storm, or they had probably destroyed *Anson*; who was sent out so late and ill provided, that his Fleet perished without meeting an Enemy.

See Sir *John Norris's* secret Expedition the same Year, a mere naval Shew in the Channel.

See Admiral *Vernon* in the *West-Indies*, the same Year, not able to keep the Seas for Want of Supplies, unaccountably delayed in *England*.

See another naval Parade of 1741 under Sir *John Norris*, fitted out at great Charge to do nothing.

See Admiral *Haddock* in 1741, with a gallant Fleet in the *Mediterranean*, bear down upon the *Spaniards*; and when he was upon the Point of blowing them out of the Seas, the *French* Admiral interposed with his Flag of Truce, and tye up the Hands of our Admiral, by ministerial Machination.

D

See

See the gross Misconduct before *Carthage-na*: Armies embarked at an improper Time; landed without Tents to cover them from the pestilential Air of a mortal climate, at the the most dangerous Season, and without Cannon. See them assail Walls without Breach made, or Possibility to mount them, for Want of Ladders long enough to reach the Top; and under Commanders so appointed, as to quarrel with one another, instead of joining cordially to attack the Enemy.

From the unseasonable and ill-concerted Attempts made by the Forces of this Fleet and Embarkation, it is said we had about twenty-seven Men of one Regiment, eight of another Regiment, and one Officer of a third Regiment, returned to *Europe*. Of seven or eight thousand fine Troops, we lost perhaps near six thousand; of Seamen and Landmen twenty or thirty thousand were lavished by the Minister and those of his appointing. Besides, Treasure in Abundance, to encrease the Load of national Debt, and gain Disgrace only to your Country.

How should it be otherwise? Commanders were almost universally named, not because they were fit for their Stations, but fit for the Minister: And for the same Reason no public Officer, how deficient soever in Duty, could be called to Account.

Upon

Upon the gross Miscarriages of this large Armament sent to the *West-Indies* in 1739, under Admiral *Vernon*, a Motion was made in the House of Lords, 1741, “ to address the “ King for Copies of the Orders and Instruc- “ tions sent to Admiral *Vernon* from the “ Time of his leaving England.”

This reasonable Motion being opposed, it was in the Course of the Debates upon that, and another Motion of the like Nature, asserted and admitted, “ That no Negative “ had ever been put upon any Motions “ of this Kind, until the Year 1721, the fa- “ tal *South-Sea* Year, when Instructions be- “ gan to be of such a Nature, as required “ their being concealed:—It was also de- “ clared, that the House, as hereditary “ Counsellors, had an inherent Right of ad- “ vising the Crown; which could not be “ done without having the necessary Lights “ and Information.”—The Duke of *Argyle* declared, “ That he had never seen, nor been “ consulted about any Instructions sent to the “ Admiral although he was then General in “ Chief of his Majesty’s Forces, and Master “ of the Ordnance, and one of the Cabinet “ Council.”

The Admiral in his Letter had made heavy Complaints of our Conduct at Home, particularly, as to the Badness of his Stores, which he said were fit only for a *Spithead*

Expedition; yet could not the Motion be carried.

When this was refused, another Motion was made to see his Letters, which was also defeated by a Clog.

When this Attempt was frustrated, a Motion was made to inquire into the Instructions of Admiral *Haddock*, but Inquiries were not for the Purpose of the Minister. So all was veiled.

In the House of Commons a like Motion as to *Vernon* was carried; but with a Reserve, being so far only as the Letters related to Supply of Ships, Marines and Land-Forces; this Reserve empowering the Minister to judge which were such.

The ruling Principle of Men in Power, the Hardships the Public suffered, the total Disregard to Performance of public Duty, and the Protection the Servants of the Public met with upon neglecting that Duty, are further apparent by the Event of another Inquiry about this Time in the House of Lords.

This noble Body judging it necessary to take into Consideration the State of *Minorca*, found that most of the Officers belonging to the Troops, were absent from their Posts; of nineteen officers, only five were on the Island; yet was no further Notice taken of this Neglect, but to order them to their Posts. Had they, or their Superiors, who
war-

warranted their Absence, been then properly treated, and any Degree of subsequent Care been taken, *Minorca* had now been ours.

Had a proper Commander been sent into the *Mediterranean*, when the united Fleets of *France* and *Spain* sailed out of *Toulon*; or had those very improper Commanders which were sent, *Matthews* and *Lestock*, been properly treated at their Return, *Minorca* had still been ours. 'Tis thus we lose our Money and our Territories; 'tis thus that *Englishmen* are beggared, and become the Scoff of *Christendom*.

Like *Ægyptians*, you were to make Brick without Straw; to pay Taxes, even when your Trade, which was to support them, could not obtain its due Protection.

In this *Spanish* War, the Success of the *Spanish* Privateers in taking our Merchant Ships for Want of Cruizers, properly stationed, was monstrous. Several Masters of Ships in tedious Voyages from the *West-Indies*, never met one Cruizer. Until eight Months after the Declaration of War, no Ship was stationed off *Cape Clear*; that important Point was disregarded. The War, for Wrongs done to our Trade, was entered into at the Instance of Merchants, against the Interest, and consequently against the Will of the Minister. He had therefore a secret Pleasure in seeing them distressed. So destitute were they of Protection, that it was proved at the Bar of the

the House of Commons, in *January 1742*, that upwards of three hundred Merchant Ships had been taken, mostly in the *British Channel* and Soundings, and carried into *St. Sebastians* and the adjacent Ports.

The Neglect and Delay of Convoys, the impressing of Men out of Ships homeward bound, the Neglect to settle a proper Cartel, and the Disregard and Contempt shewn to the Applications and Remonstrances of the Merchants was unpardonably grievous! These inestimable Bees had every Difficulty thrown in their Way that might obstruct their Passage to the Hive.

The *Portugal* Fleet had been detained twelve Months for Want of Protections and Convoys; which gave the *French* an Opportunity of undermining us in our Woollen Trade: We feel it daily. The *West-India* Fleet, after waiting four Months, was obliged at last to sail without a Convoy. A Captain of a Man of War was accused of taking twenty-seven Ships under Convoy at *Lisbon*, and not bringing one safe to *England*. And the *Carolina* Coast was left some Months without one Ship on that Coast, which in Times of Peace usually had two.

Upon these grievous Distresses in Trade, the Merchants of *London*, *Bristol*, *Exeter*, *Glasgow*, *Southampton*, *Liverpool*, *Whitehaven* and other Places, petitioned the House
of

of Commons, who appointed a Committee, which came to these Resolutions.

I. That notwithstanding the repeated Applications of the Merchants for Cruisers to be properly stationed for the Protection of their Trade, due Care has not been taken in this Respect; for Want of which, many Ships have been taken by the Enemy, to the national Dishonour and Loss.

II. That the Detention of the *Portugal* Fleet for twelve Months by the Refusal of Protections, and the Delay of Convoys, gave our Rivals in Trade an Opportunity of introducing new Species of their Woollen Manufacture into that Country, to the great Loss of this Kingdom.

III. That it is their Opinion the House be moved for Leave to bring in a Bill for the better protecting and Security of the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom in Time of War.

These Resolutions were laid before his Majesty, who was pleased to give a *gracious Answer*; and a Bill passed the Commons suitable to the third Resolution, but was thrown out as some others of higher Importance had been, by the Lords. Even though it had been manifestly shewn, at the Bar of the House of Commons, from *collected Attestations*, that the Merchants had been exposed to the *Insults and Rapine* of the *Spaniards*, not by *Innattention or Accident*, but by *one uniform and continued Design*.

Here

Here again the injured People sent general Instructions to insist upon a Repeal of the Septennial Act, as a Preliminary to the granting of Supplies: but they found that a Minister, with their Money in his Pocket, was an over Match for them.

In the Midst of this national Distress, Debt, Misconduct, and Poverty; (for the Public may be poor, though Individuals be rich, and the public Revenue may in itself be monstrous, although of little Strength or Security to the State, if applied to indirect Ends and private Purposes) when immense Sums were daily granting, and raised upon Loans, Lotteries, &c. &c. a Bill could not be carried even through the House of Commons, *January* 1742, for stating the public Accounts.

We see the many national Abuses, and the repeated Efforts made by the People, until about the Commencement of the late *French* War. From thence forward, our Armies sent to the Continent; our Battles fought there, before and after Proclamation of War; Rebellions, Invasions, and Threats of Invasions; must naturally have diverted the Attention of the Subject from seeking Redress of domestic Grievances.

These several Facts have been recited to shew the Views of late Administrations, so inconsistent with the fair Purposes of Government, that an honest Man might almost have
made

made it a Rule to oppose Administrations without asking Questions.

The grand View, the sole Care of the Ministry, has been to keep his Troops together, and preserve his Dominion. The Preservation of King and People were but secondary Considerations, if considered at all.

The old Minister kept Possession, until the People could bear him no longer; then shrugging his Shoulders, and scoffing at a pillaged Nation, he retired, as to a Fortress, under Protection of the new Minister; whilst the Representatives of the People were brought under the Direction of both. Here lay the Source of your endless and inveterate Maladies.

The Censure of former Ministers is not to be understood as an Encomium upon their Successors. Nor, on the other Hand, is it just or politick to endeavour to prejudice you against them. But 'tis wise and fair to suspend your Judgments until their Actions shall clearly bespeak the Judgment you are to pronounce.

As often as any Man attempted to rescue the Public, there was a ministerial Conspiracy to debauch him; or undo him, if they could not debauch him.

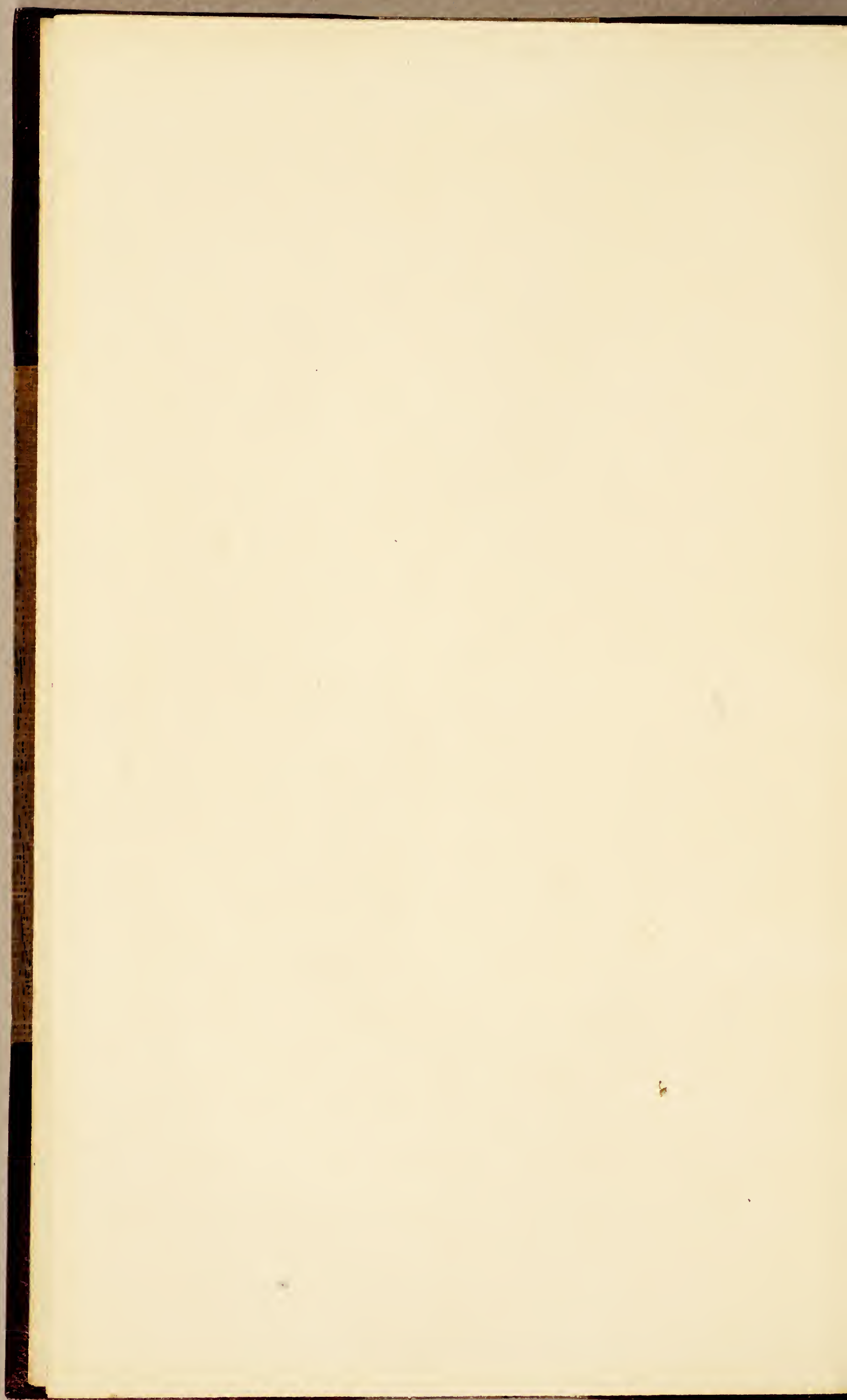
Ministers seemed to fear nothing but honest Men; and of such, Providence lent you a Number sufficient to preserve the Bark from Shipwreck. Countrymen be honest! Voters *spurn* Venality! Be true to yourselves, and defy

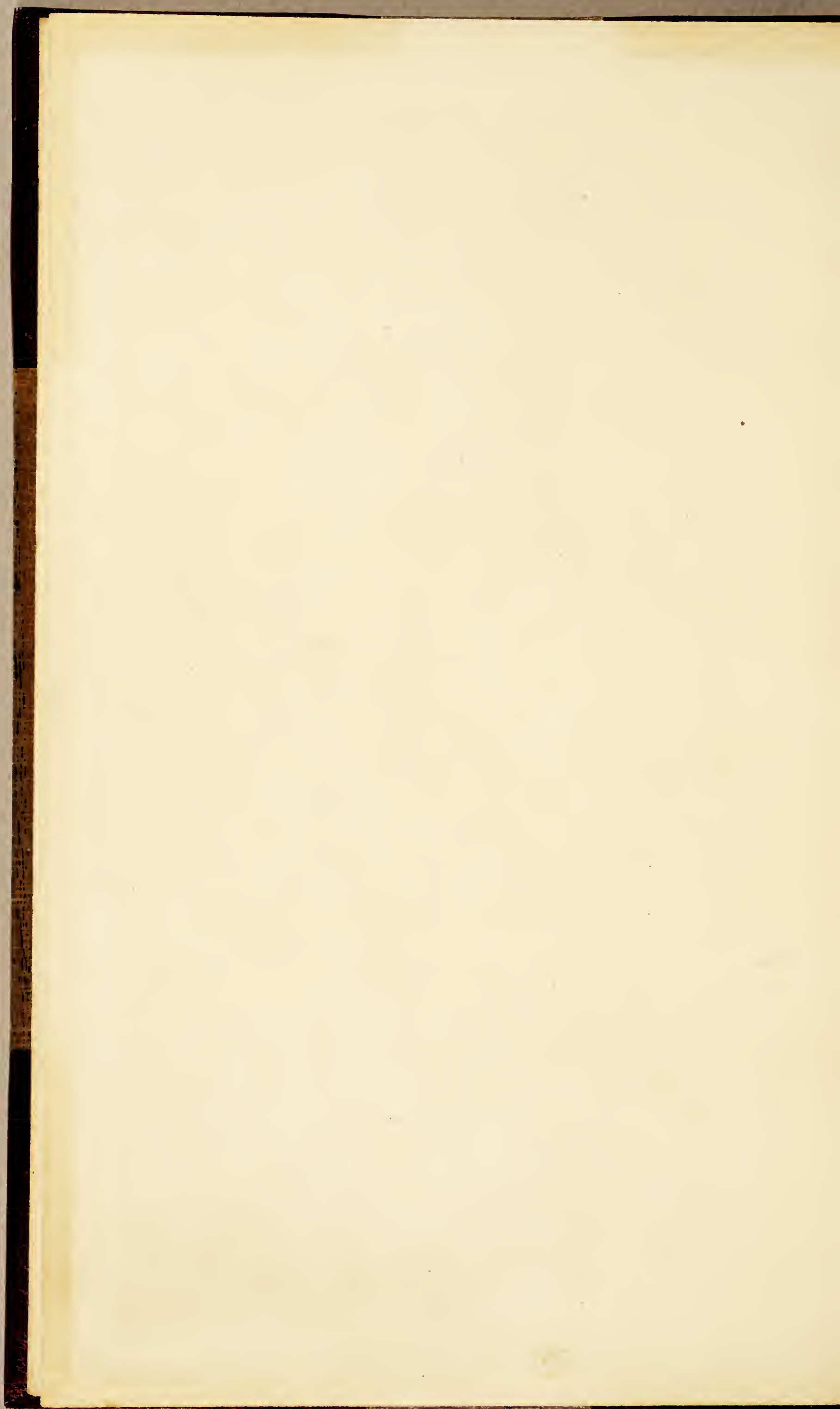
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Satan!

Satan! Your Country is still recoverable: *By You.* Consider: Your Votes are due to the Community for public Service. The Man you send to Parliament, is not *YOUR Representative*; but the Representative of *the whole Nation.* You have therefore no more Right to sell your Votes without Doors, than the Member has to sell his within. Depravity in him would be highly dangerous; in *you*, certainly fatal: Producing Change of Government; the immediate Fore-runner of Destruction to your civilized Country: For Parliaments, invincible to all others, had in wanton Prosperity, massacred themselves. *Britain* must cease to be the Land of Liberty——Your Island become the Residence alone of Slaves or Savages.

F I N I S.





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